

Message Text

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R 101454Z OCT 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TUNIS 5998 ACTION SECSTATE SEPT 25, 1974

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 5998

NEA/AFN PASS OPIC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, EIV, TS

SUBJECT: OPIC SPONSORED INVESTMENT MISSION

REF: A) STATE 208670, B) TUNIS 4549

1. AS REPORTED REF B, EMBASSY WELCOMES US INVESTMENT MISSION TO THIS COUNTRY. OUR DESIRE TO FURTHER GREATER US PRIVATE INVESTMENT HERE AS NEXT STEP IN EVOLUTION OF US/TUNISIAN ECONOMIC RELATIONS BY COUNTER BALANCING DECREASING OFFICIAL AID LEVELS AND CONTINUING TRANSFER OF AMERICAN CAPITAL AND US EXPORT OF GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY COINCIDES WITH GOVT CAMPAIGN ATTRACT US INVESTMENT TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT AND TO FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH. WE ALSO WELCOME VISIT THIS FALL OF MESSRS. BIRD AND MIDDLETON TO DISCUSS TYPE AND SIZE OF MISSION, TIMING

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SUGGESTED REF A ACCEPTABLE.

2. NENDING THESE DISCUSSIONS, WE OFFER FOLLOWING SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PREPARING FOR MISSION. WE FEEL MISSION OF 30 MEMBERS PLUS REPRESENTATIVES OF ARAB INVESTMENT ORGANIZATIONS UNWIELDY FOR SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS AND EXPLORATION OF POSSIBLE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES. WE SUGGEST SOMEWHAT SMALLER GROUP (ABOUT 20) PREPARED TO SPEND SUFFICIENT TIME HERE TO INVESTIGATE OPPORTUNITIES ON WHICH THEY WILL HAVE RECEIVED INFORMATION PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AND IN WHICH THEY ARE SERIOUSLY CONTEMPLATING PROJECTS. WE ALSO QUESTION ADVISABILITY OF TAKING SAME POTENTIAL INVESTORS TO SUCH DISPARATE COUNTRIES AS SAUDI ARABIA AND KUWAIT, AND TUNISIA. BELIEVE FORMER TWO COUNTRIES OFFER POSSIBILITIES FOR LARGE SCALE PROJECTS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM TYPE THAT COULD ATTRACT US INVESTORS HERE AND VICE VERSA. FOR MAXIMUM PRACTICAL RESULTS, WE WOULD HOPE MISSION MEMBERS WOULD HAVE FAIRLY DEFINITE IDEAS IN MIND AS TO LAWS, INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND OPPORTUNITIES BEFORE ARRIVAL AND BELIEVE THIS BEST ACHIEVED BY HAVING MISSION VISIT COUNTRIES WITH SAME GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS. POSSIBLY THIS COULD BELACCOMPLISHED BY PERMITTING PARTICIPANTS TO ACCOMPANY MISSION ONLY TO COUNTRIES OF IMMEDIATE INTEREST.

3. RE PRELIMINARY MEETING SEPTEMBER 29 IN WASHINGTON, EMBASSY INFORMED SECRETARY OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF PLAN, MUSTAPHA ZAAOUNI, WHO IS REPLACING MINISTER MOALLA TO HEAD DELEGATION TO IBRD MEETING. ALTHOUGH ZAAOUNI NOT INVOLVED EARLIER MIDDLETON VISIT, HE SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MISSION WITH BIRD AND MIDDLETON. SUGGEST OPIC MAKE APPOINTMENTS WITH ZAAOUNI THROUGH TUNISIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON POSSIBLY PRIOR TO ARRIVAL OF TUNISIAN DELEGATION.

4. WE SUGGEST THAT BIRD AND MIDDLETON ALSO DISCUSS MISSION WITH: ABDESSELEM BEN AYED, WHO IS TO ACCOMPANY MINISTER AYARI DURING US VISIT IN NOVEMBER AND HEADS MAJOR LOCAL FRENCH-TUNISIAN OWNED COMMERCIAL BANK, UBCI; MOKHTAR FAKHFAKH OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TUNISIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTLBANK; AND AHMED BEN ABDELKEFI, WHO IS HEAD OF SPECIAL AGENCY TO DEVELOP TOURISM IN SOUSSE REGION. THESE OFFICIALS ARE SCHEUDLED TO BE IN WASHINGTON DURING IBRD/IMF ANNUAL MEETING AND SHOULD HAVE USEFUL SUGGESTIONS REGARDING MISSION. SEELYE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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